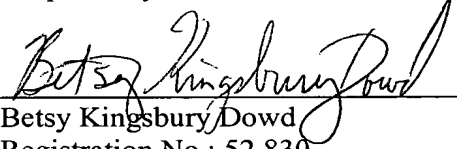


REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment prior to examination of the above-referenced application. Applicants have incorporated amendments to the claims corresponding to the Annexes from the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 by providing the substitute sheets 23-28 attached hereto. Applicants have additionally amended the annexed claims in order to remove multiple dependencies and reference numerals from the claims. In addition, Applicants have added section headings to the specification, as well as a claim of priority to the International Application, in order to conform with U.S. practice. Applicants believe that the claims as amended are now in proper form for examination.

In view of the foregoing submission, examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Betsy Kingsbury Dowd
Registration No.: 52,830
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP
6900 Jericho Turnpike
Syosset, New York 11791
(516) 822-3550
BKD:cb

214386_1